

always held that it is in this spontaneous
undergrowth, rather than in a further
tissue, rather than in a further
hypertrophy of the national
go\ eminent, that will be found, for the
most part, the institutions
destined to replace the Capitalist system "

The book does for the consumers* associations
what *Industrial*
Democracy had done for those of the
producers Beatrice
Potter had already written the history of the
Co-operative
movement, in a small book that has not been
superseded,
has been translated into every known
language, and sells
as though new No need to do that work
again Here,
in the first instance, they are engaged in
describing,
analysing, and at times, faithfully and frankly
criticising,
the achievements of the voluntary
association of con-
sumers that, in 1923, "supplied to one seventh
of the popu-
lation half of their food stuffs and one tenth of
their other
household purchases " Significant of their
general approach,
as of a quality in their minds allying them to
Jeremy
Bentham, is the passage of almost lyrical lift
in which
they set out the various functions of the Co-
operative
Wholesale Society, which, "like the Vatican
itself is—at
least relatively to the resources of the average
local co-
operative society—omniscient and
omnipresent " They
describe the "Buyers' Mart⁵" held every
Tuesday, in
Manchester

"The spectacle, hitherto ignored both by
the economists and
the magnates of Capitalist business, is one
of the most remark-
able in the world of commerce, because it
is a gathering, not of
profit-seekers trying to get the better of

each other, but of
business men who are, and feel themselves
to be, officials en-
gaged in different branches of a common
public service, having
only the common purpose of the maximum
satisfaction of the
consumer's wants. The handsome sale
room at Balloon Street is
set with broad tables on which are
displayed attractive exhibits
of the wares likely to be in request, and of
the novelties to be
brought forward. The expert officers of
each branch and sec-
tion of the department are in attendance.
To this weekly exhibi-
tion there resort the managers and
buyers, and sometimes the